

**Subject:** comments on your proposed STIP 2006-2008

**From:** Jerry Isaac <jerry\_isaac@hotmail.com>

**Date:** Thu, 29 Dec 2005 11:28:48 -0900

**To:** DOT\_STIP@dot.state.ak.us

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Dear Sir:

I would like to comment on the proposed changes to the STIP plans.

I do not agree with the planned cancellations and delays as noted in your plans. Many of our statewide transportation systems are in need of immediate repairs, expansions, and new construction. The Natural Gas Pipeline Construction will require massive amounts of work to be done on the Alaska Highway alone, just to get it upgraded and prepared to sustain the increased traffic load in preparation for the gasline. Many of the statewide projects have been awaiting funding for years. I do not feel it is in the best interest of the Alaska public to have to wait another four or more years for improved transportation systems that they had proposed over the last several years. We need to place emphasis on maintaining and improving existing transportation systems to ensure safety for the traveling public.

I know it would make life much easier for local residents if the two bridges popularly known as, "the bridges to nowhere," were to be constructed. However, it simply does not make any sense to spend these large amounts of money that would only provide benefit to the people who live in those particular areas. Or is it to only cause an increase in property values? I do not have any problems with public projects if they are generally enjoyed by all Alaskans. It appears to me that state funding programs are cut only in rural areas of Alaska or if not, then generally and mostly in rural Alaska. Rural residents are Alaskans and Americans too. We are entitled to fairness and equality just like any Alaskan. It only appears to me that budget cuts when needed first applies to rural Alaska. I feel that subtle racism is practiced through such applications like the so called public process as that particular method can pass legal scrutiny, thereby allowing for the avoidance of being held responsible for discrimination. After all, it is generally known that rural Alaska is inhabited predominantly by Alaska Natives and that it is most often concluded that they can live with the cuts and reductions.

My community of Tanacross has a need to repair, extend, or construct up to 56 miles of transportation routes. Yet, we receive only the BIA IRR Roads fund. It is not enough, but that is all we get. Yes we sure can use extra funding.

I thank you for your time and consideration if any.

Sincerely,

Jerry Isaac, President  
Tanacross Village Council